

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



**FISCAL MEMORANDUM**

**HB 1510 – SB 1797**

February 17, 2018

**SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL:** Requires public safety employers to provide public safety employees at least ten sessions with a mental health service provider to treat Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in addition to other behavioral or mental health benefits offered.

**FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:**

Increase State Expenditures – \$1,500

Increase Local Expenditures – \$351,400\*

**SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (013054):** Adds language to the original bill to include occupational therapists licensed by the Board of Occupational Therapy as mental health providers for the purposes of this legislation.

**FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:**

**Unchanged from the original fiscal note.**

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- This legislation defines a public safety employer as the state, a local government, or any other political subdivision of the state that employs public safety employees on a full-time basis and a public safety employee as an emergency medical worker or professional firefighter who is a paid, full-time employee of a public safety employer.
- This legislation requires public safety employers to provide PTSD counseling sessions to public safety employees at a cost that is no more than co-pays or co-insurance for other health benefits offered by the employer.
- Currently, under the State and Local Government benefit plans administered by the Department of Finance and Administration, Employee Assistance Program (EAP) services are offered at no cost to eligible participants. This analysis assumes all public

safety employers will offer an additional 10 sessions but will require a co-pay or co-insurance payment of at least \$45 for the provision of PTSD services.

- The average cost per counseling session is estimated to be \$75.
- The Department of Military (DOM) employees 50 firefighters.
- Ten percent of these state-employed public safety employees will utilize PTSD counseling services. It is assumed the DOM will require an additional recurring appropriation from the General Fund for paying the costs applicable to PTSD sessions.
- The recurring increase in state expenditures from the General Fund is estimated to be \$1,500 [(50 x 10%) employees x (\$75 cost - \$45 member copay) x 10 sessions].
- Based on information provided by the Department of Commerce and Insurance, there are approximately 7,088 full-time local government firefighters in Tennessee.
- Based on information from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 27.35 percent of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel are employed by governments. The Office of EMS states there are 16,915 licensed EMS personnel in Tennessee. This would result in 4,626 (16,915 x 27.35%) EMS personnel meeting the provisions of the proposed legislation.
- The mandatory recurring increase in local expenditures is estimated to be \$351,420 [(7,088 + 4,626) x 10% x (\$75 cost - \$45 copay) x 10 sessions].

*\*Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

## **CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

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